



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE  
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जहाँ है हरियाली ।  
वहाँ है खुशहाली ॥

Dated 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2015

No.FP/JH/MIN/3613/2004 /167

To

The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC),  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,  
Government of India,  
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road,  
New Delhi – 110003.

Sub: Site Inspection of Rajrappa OCP (Block II) M/s Central Coalfield Ltd. in Bokaro district of Jharkhand.

Ref: Ministry's letter No.8-21/2015-FC dated 16.09.2015.

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, I am directed to inform that the Site Inspection of the above mentioned project was carried out by the Deputy Conservator of Forests (Central) of this office on 3.11.2015 and the Site Inspection report is enclosed herewith for kind information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

*Sujoy Dutta*  
6.11.2015

(Sujoy Dutta)  
Technical Officer (Forestry)

**SITE INSPECTION REPORT IN RESPECT OF DIVERSION OF 277.15 HA OF FOREST LAND FOR RAJRAPPA OCP IN FAVOUR OF M/s CENTRAL COALFIELDS LTD IN BOKARO DISTRICT OF JHARKHAND.**

The site inspection of the above project was carried out by the undersigned on 03.11.2015 in the presence Divisional Forest Officer, Bokaro Forest Division, Assistant Conservator of Forest, Bokaro Forest Division, user agency represented by GM, Project Officer, Staff Officer, Manager of Block II, Senior Manager of CCL, Rajrapa group of mines, Range Forest Officer of Gumia and other field staff.

**1. Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion:**

The legal status of the forest land is Protected Forests (Notified) and Jungle Jhari.

**2. Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion.**

**The item-wise break-up details of the forest land is as follows:**

Division	P.F. area (in ha)	Jungle Jhari (in ha)	Total(ha)
Bokaro	98.69	178.46	277.15

**3. Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If yes, details thereof:**

Not reported.

**4. Total cost of the project at present rates:**

As per record it is Rs.510.85 crores.(RCE 2009)

**5. Wildlife:**

**Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from wildlife point of view or not:**

No rare/endangered species of fauna are found in the area. Proposed area for diversion does not form a part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary and Biosphere/Tiger Reserve.

Since the area of forest land diverted is large i.e.277.15 ha, it will definitely show significant impact on the flora and fauna of the area.

**6. Vegetation:**

The area proposed for diversion seems to be sparsely forested. General topography is undulating to rugged with low ridges and valleys. Surface is rocky with scattered trees. The forest is thin and density of vegetation appears to be less than 0.3

**(a) Total number of trees to be felled.**

The no. of trees enumerated comes to 14698. However no marking on the trees is found during inspection. Trees less than 30 cm girth are 9454 in number and more than 30 cms are 5244 in number.

**Effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area:**

It will adversely affect the general eco-system of the area.

**8. Compensatory afforestation:**

As reported, DFO Bokaro has identified 554.30 ha of degraded forest land along forest boundary in 6 patches.

**(a) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is suitable from plantation and management point of view or not:**

Suitable as reported by DFO Bokaro

**(b) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachment/other encumbrances:**

No information is available in records.

**(c) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is important from Religious/Archaeological point of view:**

Not reported.

**(d) Land identified for raising compensatory afforestation is in how many patches, whether patches are compact or not:**

DFO, Bokaro has identified degraded forest land for raising compensatory afforestation in 6 patches.

**(e) Map with details:**

Enclosed as Annexure.

**(f) Total financial outlay:**

Rs.5.475 crores.

**9. Whether proposal involves violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned officials:**

As reported, no violation of has been committed.

**10. Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not :**

As reported around 850 families in mining area will be rehabilitated. Detailed resettlement and rehabilitation plan has been prepared and submitted.

**11. Reclamation plan:**

Submitted by the user agency and the same is enclosed.

**12. Details on catchment and command area under the project:**

Not applicable.

**Catchment area treatment plan to prevent siltation of reservoir:**

Not applicable.

**13. Cost benefit ratio:**

As reported it is 1: 5.82 which is very low.

**14. Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/State Government:**

Recommended by the PCCF / State Government.

**15. Conservator of Forests (Central) shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternative routes/alignment for locating the project on the non-forest land:**

Annexed separately.

**16. Utility of the project:**

Rajrappa project (Phase II) is one of the largest semi coking mines of Coal India Ltd which lies in Ramgarh Coalfields in Bokaro dist of Jharkhand state. It has good quality of medium coking coal which is a substitute of imported coal used by steel plants. Apart from this, project will provide employment opportunity to people, help in development of local industry, improve the quality of life of the people and help in upliftment of social and educational standards of the people.

**17 Numbers of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes to be benefited by the project:**

Details not available in the records.

**(a) Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/ religious value:**

Not reported.

**(b) Whether any sacred grove or very old growth trees/forests exist in the areas**

**proposed for diversion:**

Not reported.

**(c Whether the land under diversion forms part of any unique eco-system:**

Not reported.

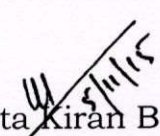
**18. Situation with respect to any Protected Area:**

Proposed area for diversion does not form a part of National Park. Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere/Tiger Reserve.

**19. Any other information relating to the project:**

The proposed area is just opposite to phase I of Rajrappa Project-I. During the site inspection it was observed that no work has been started by the user agency and the whole area was demarcated on the ground. The GPS coordinates of some of the points were selected randomly and were verified on the ground by handheld GPS instruments and found to be in order. However, no RCC boundary pillars were found during inspection. It was observed that in the area proposed for diversion which is mostly in the category of Jungle Jhari, rampant illegal mining by the local villagers is taking place. No tree marking was seen on the enumerated trees in the project area. Since the project operates in Open Cast method, top soil management is a must and the user agency is advised to prepare top soil management plan.

The user agency may also explore the possibility of underground mining instead of open cast mining. Since the project area is near Damodar river enough precautions should be taken for not polluting the river. The user agency shall have to take all possible precautions for protection of environment and control of pollution while operating in the area.

  
(Vasanta Kiran Babu)  
DCF (central).

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF ADDL.PRINPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (CENTRAL)**

The instant proposal is for diversion of 277.15 ha of forest land for Rajrappa OCP (Block II) of M/s Central Coalfield Ltd. in Bokaro District of Jarkhand.

On perusal of records and Site Inspection Report of DCF the following observations are made:

- The item-wise break-up of the forest land is as follows:

Division	P.F. area (in ha)	Jungle Jhari (in ha)	Total (ha)
Bokaro	98.69	178.46	277.15

- The density of vegetation has been reported to be less than 0.3 in Bokaro Forest Division and the area appears to be sparsely vegetated.
- Total 14,698 No. of trees are proposed to be felled, out of which 9,454 trees are below 30 cm girth and 5,244 trees are above 30 cm girth.
- Diversion of such a large patch of forest land (277.15 ha) will definitely have adverse impact on the flora and fauna of the area.
- The Cost Benefit Ratio is 1: 5.82, which is very less.
- Illegal mining is also seen in Jungle Jhari area.

Keeping in view the fact that the density of forests is low and the area is sparsely vegetated, the proposal may be considered for diversion. However, possibility of underground mining should also be explored.

A.N. Sharan  
5.11.2015

(A.N. Sharan)

Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests